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IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method for scan to confidential print job communications, the method comprising:
at a source, scanning a document;
accepting a password;
hashing the password;
encrypting the scanned document; and,
transmitting a file including a header with an unencrypted identification of the scanned document and the hashed password, and encrypted document data ~~the encrypted document with the password,~~ from the source to a network-connected printer.
2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
at the printer, accepting the encrypted document and hashed password;
accepting an access code at a local interface;
comparing the access code to the hashed password;
in response to a matching the access code to the hashed password, decrypting the document; and,
printing the decrypted document.
3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein accepting a password includes accepting a password selected from the group including a PIN number, an alphanumeric code, biometric data, Smart card, magnetic stripe card, and proximity badge.

4. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein encrypting the document includes:

at the source, deriving an encryption key from the password;
and,
using the encryption key to encrypt the document.

5-6. canceled

7. (currently amended) The method of claim [[5]] 2 further comprising:

at the printer, hashing the access code; and,
wherein comparing the access code to the hashed password
includes comparing the hashed password to the hashed access code.

8. (original) The method of claim 7 wherein decrypting the document includes:

regenerating the encryption key from the access code; and,
using the encryption key to decrypt the encrypted document.

9. (currently amended) A method for recovering scan to confidential print communications, the method comprising:

at a network-connected printer interface, accepting a file including a header with an unencrypted identification of an encrypted document and a hashed password, along with the [[an]] encrypted document and password;

accepting an access code at a local interface;

comparing the access code to the hashed password;
in response to a matching the access code to the hashed
password, decrypting the document; and,
printing the decrypted document.

10. (currently amended) A scan to confidential print job
communications system, the system comprising:

a scanner having an input to accept a paper media document
and a user interface to accept a password and convert the password into a
hashed password, the scanner scanning the document, encrypting the
scanned document, and transmitting a file including a header with an
unencrypted identification of the scanned document and the hashed
password, along with the encrypted document ~~with the password~~, on a
network-connected output.

11. (currently amended) The system of claim 10 further
comprising:

a printer having a network-connected input to accept the file
from the scanner encrypted document and password, and a user interface to
accept an access code, the printer identifying a document in response to the
document identity in the header, comparing the access code to the hashed
password, and in response to a matching the access code to the hashed
password, decrypting the document, the printer having an output to supply a
printed copy of the decrypted document.

12. (original) The system of claim 10 wherein the scanner user interface accepts a password selected from the group including a PIN number, an alphanumeric code, biometric data, Smart card, magnetic stripe card, and proximity badge.

13. (original) The system of claim 11 wherein the scanner includes an encryption unit having an input to accept the scanned document and an input to accept the password, the encryption unit deriving an encryption key from the password and using the encryption key to supply the encrypted document at an output.

14-15. canceled

16. (currently amended) The system of claim ~~[[14]]~~ 11 wherein the printer includes a hash unit with an input to accept the access code and an input to accept the hashed codeword, the hash unit generating a hashed access code and supplying a decision at an output in response to comparing the hashed password to the hashed access code.

17. (original) The system of claim 16 wherein the printer further includes a decryption unit having an input to accept the decision from the printer hash unit, an input to accept the encrypted document, and an input to accept the access code, the decryption unit regenerating the encryption key from the access code and using the encryption key to supply the decrypted document at an output.

18. (original) The system of claim 11 wherein the printer user interface accepts an access code selected from the group including a PIN number, an alphanumeric code, biometric data, Smart card, magnetic stripe card, and proximity badge.

19. (currently amended) A system for recovering scan to confidential print communications, the system comprising:

a printer having a network-connected input to accept a file including a header with an unencrypted identification of an encrypted document and a hashed password, along with the [[an]] encrypted document and password, the printer having [[and]] a user interface to accept an access code at a local interface, the printer identifying the document in response to the header and comparing the access code to the hashed password, and in response to a matching the access code to the hashed password, decrypting the document, the printer having an output to supply a printed copy of the decrypted document.